

DIRE NEED CRITERIA FOR LOUISIANA CONRAD STATE 30 PROGRAM SPECIALIST REQUEST

The Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program is designed primarily to improve access to primary health care in physician shortage areas in the state. Secondly, the goal is to improve access to necessary but limited specialty care in these shortage areas. As a result, twenty percent (20%) of the available Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program slots will be available for the placement of specialty physicians in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health (Bureau) will evaluate the total number of Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program requests six (6) months into the federal fiscal year. If slots are still vacant as of April 1st, remaining Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program slots will be made available to specialty or primary care physicians on a first-come, first-served basis for all correctly completed applications that meet all program requirements at the time of packet review.

Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program specialty placements will be made based on the community's ability to establish dire need for the specialist. Dire need within a community will be proved by sufficient documentation that indicates that this specialty is critical to the delivery of primary health care services in the community, the specialty is in high demand, and the specialist will serve the needs of the community's Medicaid, Medicare, and un-/underinsured indigent populations.

In order to justify the placement of a specialist, all of the following information must be provided to the Bureau in addition to the standard Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program support request application packet as listed in the Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program policy. In addition to the letters mentioned in #3 of this form, a letter of support from the nearest specialist of the same type as the one being requested should be included in the Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program support request application packet. This letter is in addition to the original four requested letters.

NOTE: Approval for a specialty slot will not be considered until the Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program support request application packet and dire need justification is received.

1. Why does the facility/community need the specialist?

- How does this specialty link to primary care?
- How has the demand for the specialty been handled in the past?
- How has the situation changed?
- Where are patients currently referred?
- l. How many patients are affected and what is the estimated financial impact this physician will have on the community?
- Can these figures support the salaries and administration of a new specialist office?

2. Where will the specialist practice and how will the specialist practice?

- What is the specialist's anticipated Medicaid patient population?
- What is the specialist's anticipated Medicare patient population?
- Will the specialist accept Medicaid and Medicare referrals?
- What is specialist's anticipated un-/underinsured indigent patient population?
- What hospital will the specialist utilize?
- Is the hospital located in the same HPSA as the practice?
- If no, is the hospital located in a HPSA?
- If the hospital is not located in a HPSA, why is the specialist utilizing the hospital?
- Is this the closest hospital available to the patient?
- What will be the call coverage schedule and with whom?

3. Provide a letter of support from any existing providers of the same specialty as the one being applied for in the community where the specialist will be practicing. Letters from providers that will be referring patients may also be submitted.

Letters should include the number of patients currently being referred, the distance to the current referral location, the barriers to specialists at other locations, and how the specialist will enhance primary care for the referring physician. **NO FORM LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

The Bureau's participation in and guidelines for the Louisiana Conrad State 30 Program are completely discretionary and voluntary and may be modified or terminated at any time. The submission of a completed waiver request application packet to the Bureau does not ensure an automatic letter of support for a J-1 visa waiver. In all instances, the Bureau reserves the right to provide or deny support for any request.